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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1  
25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 October 1952

SUBJECT Material Shortage at VEB-WMW Thuringia Ball Bearing Works

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. VEB-WMW Thuringia Ball Bearing Works, Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia, on 20 August 1952, asked the Main Department for Heavy Machine Construction of the Ministry for Machine Construction about its supply of blank drop forged pieces. The plant stated that the drop-forging departments of Max-A Fortuna-Werk VEB in Suhl, Thuringia and VEB Ankerwerk Schmalkalden, Thuringia, had continuously supplied blank drop-forged pieces until a few weeks previous. At that time, deliveries broke off completely. Fortuna-Werk stopped deliveries because of government orders; the second supplier needed more of its production for its own uses.
2. The Zella-Mehlis plant argued that its ball bearings indirectly enter into government orders but said that since the order numbers were not known, it was unable to cite any priority (Dringlichkeitsstufe) and that therefore its contracts for delivery of materials had been broken.
3. The two supplying firms also told the ball bearing works that they would be unable to accept contracts for delivery of drop-forged pieces in 1953. Negotiations with other drop-forging firms had been unsuccessful because 180 to 220 millimeter cross-section squares (Vierkt.) were necessary.
4. The Ministry for Machine Construction was therefore requested to help by providing the names of possible firms from which the forged steel might be procured so that new negotiations could be quickly concluded and so that there would be no stoppage of production at the plant. The ball bearing factory also requested the Ministry to assure the two original supplying firms that it was not a second-rank, but rather a privileged enterprise since part of its production depended upon the prompt delivery of the drop-forged blanks.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. Schmiederohlings.

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